

Florida WILDLIFE



PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE FLORIDA GAME
AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

Florida
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AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

JANUARY 1948

WILDLIFE
PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE FLORIDA GAME
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JUNE 1948

Dead
Ducks!
BY BILL SNYDER

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OCTOBER 1948

MISS
MAYHEW
BY COLEMAN NEWMAN

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JULY 1948

THEIR STAKE IS CHERRY STAKE

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NOVEMBER 1948

TIME
FAKE STOCK
BY HENRY MASON

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Poll
FLO
by D.

MARCH 1948

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By LEONARD E. FOOTE

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DECEMBER 1948

WINNING PROSPECT
1948-49

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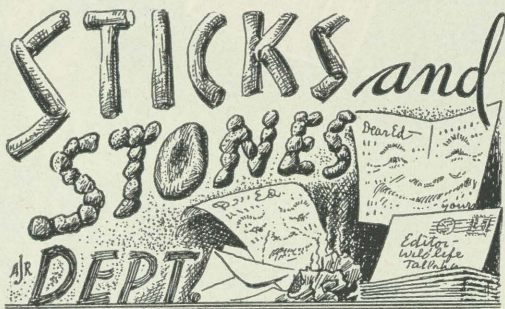
APRIL 1948

Florida
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AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

AUGUST 1948

YOU GET THE PLEAS
BY BILL SNYDER

JANUARY 1949



VOL. 2, NO. 8



JANUARY, 1949

For the
Conservation, Restoration, Protection,
of Our Game and Fish

★

Published monthly by the
FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION
Tallahassee, Florida

★

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★

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★

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A FRESH WATER CONVERT

Dear Sir:

The stories and articles on Florida's inland fishing appearing in each issue of *Florida Wildlife* are certainly the most compelling invitations I have ever had. In fact, reading them has resulted in the following situation:

Since this is my first year as a permanent resident of Florida, I was under the impression (as many other newcomers are, no doubt) that salt water fishing was the main attraction in this beautiful state. After reading your alluring accounts of inland fishing trips, I now have my boat (which I keep in the bay) up for sale, with every intention of attaining a fresh water camping and fishing outfit. If the exchange is effected, and Mrs. Segars doesn't hang into a big mouth black bass the first time inland, well — — — !

WILLIAM E. SEGARS
Tampa, Florida

LIKED PREDATOR CONTROL ARTICLE

Dear Sir:

We are especially pleased with the November issue of *Florida Wildlife* which included the excellent article by Dr. Benjamin Leavitt, entitled "Is Predator Control Effective?"

H. S. NEWINS, Director,
University of Florida
College of Agriculture
Gainesville

PLEASURE AND PROFIT

Dear Sir:

Please accept my appreciation for *Florida Wildlife* which I enjoy very much.

Every chance I have I spend my vacation in Florida fishing, and being more or less familiar in that way, I have found pleasure and profit in your splendid publication.

JUDGE C. H. PORTER
Rome Judicial Circuit,
Rome, Georgia

(Continued Page 18)

The Cover {

A birdseye view of
FLORIDA WILDLIFE in
1948. All covers were by
C. H. Anderson.

To most sportsmen the words hawk and predator are synonymous. This attitude, in many cases, is actually proving harmful to wildlife, says the author.



Photo by C. J. Proctor and B. B. Leavitt

The duck hawk, once used for the ancient sport of falconry, is now threatened with extinction through man's thoughtless war against the hawk.

Hawks-

FRIEND OR FOE?

WITH rare exceptions the statement "There's a hawk!" by a Florida hunter is followed by "Shoot it!" This condition exists in spite of the fact that it is now illegal in Florida to kill any hawk except the sharp-shinned hawk, the Cooper's hawk, or the Goshawk—commonly called blue darters.

Unfortunately, the hawk most frequently killed is not one these wary, fast-flying bird hawks, but instead, is the unsuspicious red-shoulder hawk or some other beneficial species. Any one who shoots every hawk as a game conservation measure is not only fooling himself but is actually destroying an ally.

Too much of the criticism of hawks by sportsmen has been based on hearsay and possibly the observation of one of two instances of a hawk killing a game bird. This one observation of the killing of a quail by one of the bird-killing hawks frequently results in an all-out declaration of war against all hawks to the detriment of farmer, sportsman, and nature lover alike.

The tremendous amount of evidence accumulated during the past few years indicates conclusively that most hawks

are decidedly beneficial to man's interests. Occasionally an individual of the generally beneficial species will develop a taste for the farmer's chickens, but such individuals are vastly in the minority.

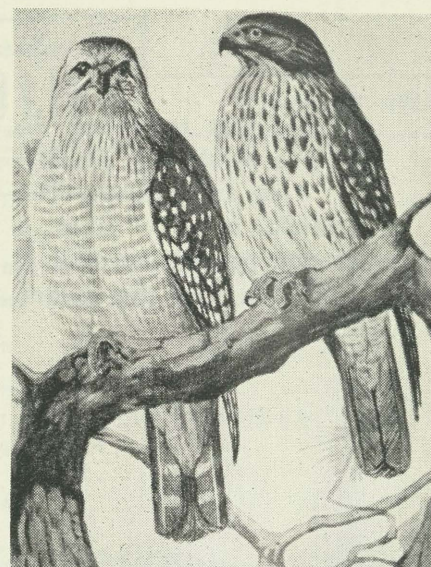
On the accompanying chart prepared by the National Association of Audubon Societies is shown the food habitats of the hawks that are commonly found in Florida. From this chart we see that only a small percentage of the food of even the worse offender, the Cooper's hawk, is made up of game birds or poultry. Rats, mice, and insects, and in Florida, snakes and frogs, form the bulk of the diet of most of the hawks.

by O. EARL FRYE

FLORIDA boasts a greater variety of hawks and their near relatives, the eagles and kites, than any eastern state. There are twenty different species in all, including the beautiful swallow-tailed kite, the unique Everglades kite that feeds exclusively on a form of large fresh water snail, and the short-tailed hawk, an immigrant from South America. All of these birds are of interest to the nature lover, but the average sportsman is

most concerned with those common species he has been led to believe are the enemies of small game.

The red-shouldered hawk is the most common large hawk in the state and the one that probably most often falls victim to the hunter's gun. His call is the one that is imitated by most commercial hawk-callers that are sold to conservation-minded, but frequently misinformed, sportsmen. He is easy to decoy and easy to approach, partic-



The red shouldered hawk, one of the species most often warred against by hunters, is actually beneficial to wildlife.

ularly along highways where thousands are killed each year, sometimes by sportsmen who believe they are helping game birds and sometimes by unscrupulous persons merely desiring a large live target. The red-shouldered hawk can best be identified by its habit of perching on a fence post or in low trees near roadside ditches or similar small bodies of shallow water, its general noisiness, and its comparative lack of fear of man.

A U. S. Department of Agriculture stomach analysis of the red-shouldered hawk showed that 85 per cent of its food is made up of insects, rats, mice, frogs, and snakes; that 1.4 per cent of its food is made up of poultry, and less than 1 per cent is made up of game birds.

The next most commonly observed large hawk, at least in the winter time, is the marsh hawk or rabbit hawk. This is the large hawk with the conspicuous white patch above its tail, long wings and tail, and a habit of soaring near the ground above open meadows and marshes. This hawk, like any other large hawk, will occasionally kill a quail or some other small game bird. The important thing is that it doesn't do this often enough to outweigh the good it does in destroying rats and mice. I doubt if there are many experienced quail hunters who have not seen one of these hawks flush a covey of quail and go serenely about his business of hunting



The above chart on hawk food habits is based on stomach analysis of 5,183 species made by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.



Above, a pair of striking red-tailed hawks. The red-tail, one of Florida's most common species, is also beneficial to wildlife.

rats and never glance at the flying birds.

OF the hawks generally considered beneficial the marsh hawk is most damaging to game since the Department of Agriculture studies show that 7.2 per cent of his diet is made up of game birds—to a large extent young pheasants or ducks taken in the northern states.

The only other common large hawk is the red-tailed hawk, the largest of our common hawks. It is most likely to be confused with the red-shouldered hawk, but is much larger, generally perches in tall trees, and, as its name indicates, has a red tail. Another good field character is the dark band across its belly. He is also considerably more wary than the red-shouldered hawk and less likely to fall victim to the hunter's gun. He is the best mouse and rat destroyer of the hawks commonly found in Florida, but at the same time is more likely to catch chickens or game birds. According to the food habits studies of the Department of Agriculture rats and mice form 55 per cent of his diet, poultry 6.3 per cent, and game birds 2.1 per cent. The rest of his diet is made up of rabbits, squirrels, insects, small birds, frogs, snakes and almost any other small living thing he can catch.

The broad-winged hawk is common enough in northwest Florida to de-

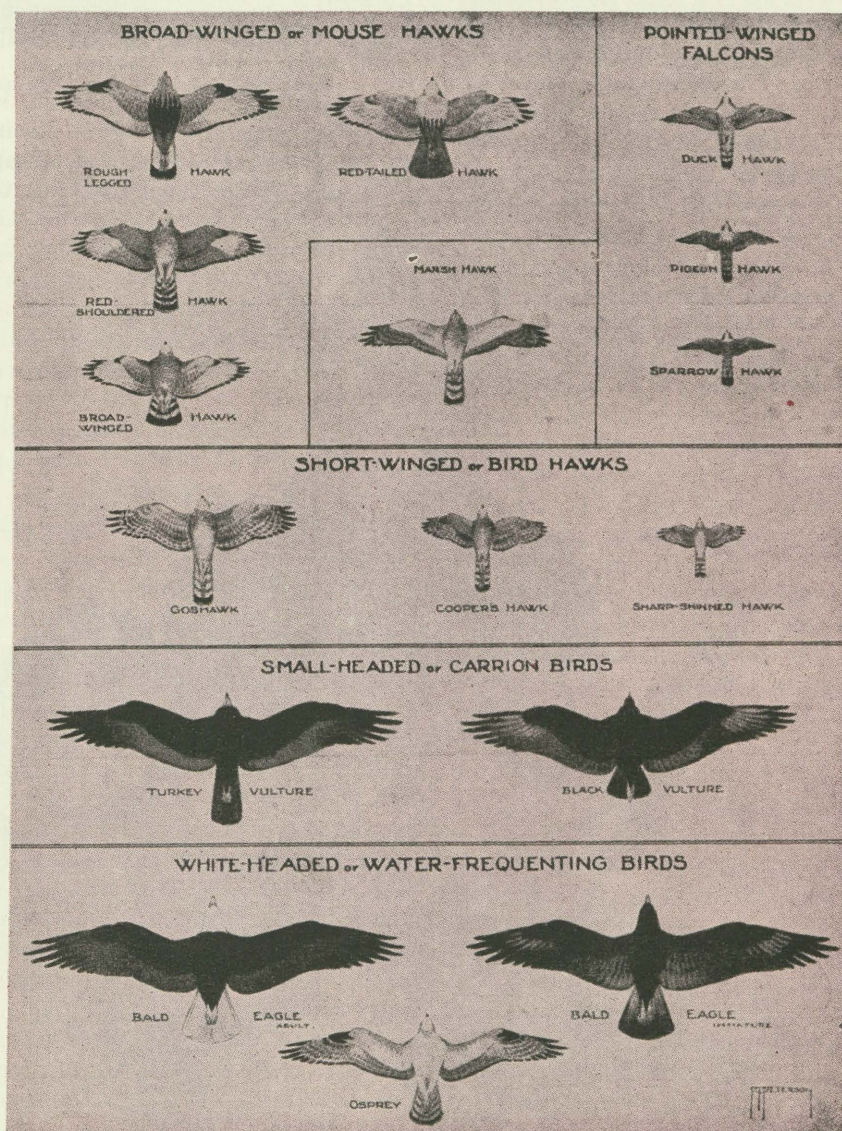
serve some mention. It is slightly smaller than the red-shouldered hawk and resembles it in many ways. It is probably the most beneficial of any of our common hawks with game birds forming only one one half of one per cent of its diet.

The beautiful little sparrow hawk or tilly hawk is known to every sportsman and it is doubtful if the most incorrigible hawk killer will shoot this graceful little bird in the name of wildlife conservation. Its food is largely insects and lizards with an occasional mouse, small bird or frog.

The sparrow hawk's two large cousins—the pigeon hawk and the duck

hawk—might be considered harmful but neither is sufficiently abundant to be of importance and the duck hawk is in some danger of extermination. They are found in Florida only in the winter; the duck hawk usually along the coast where it feeds on shore birds and an occasional duck or coot. The duck hawk, the bird most commonly used for the sport of falconry, is undoubtedly the most magnificent hunter of all the birds of prey. No true lover of the chase who has witnessed the breathtaking strike of a duck hawk would ever consider shooting this splendid bird for the sake of a few sandpipers or ducks.

(Continued Page 13)



Courtesy National Audubon Society and R. T. Peterson

The above silhouette chart is designed to help identify the different species of hawks and their cousins, the eagle and vulture.

Handle WITH Care!

Pointers are probably the most intelligent of working dogs, but that intelligence can backfire unless they are handled with kid gloves.

FINE feathers might make fine birds—but it takes a lot more than good looks to make an efficient bird dog! At least, that's been my experience in 20 years of raising and training pointers. But, of course, I'm referring to the ones that are dependable in the field—not the fellows that vie for blue ribbons at a dog show.

My success with bird dogs has re-

quired time, perseverance and—a vast amount of patience. However, for my money, good pointers deserve a long, considerate training period because, without a doubt, they are the most intelligent working dogs in the business!

If a bird dog training program is to succeed, careful culling is essential. This means constant weeding out of any of the dogs that fail to

demonstrate the “know how” of efficient bird hunting. All bird dogs are endowed with basic natural traits but each dog has individuality too. If the dog is to succeed, it's up to the trainer to turn those individualities in the right direction. If it's apparent a young dog has habits that stand to ruin his hunting future, cull him out of the pack by all means. You can't feed a race horse six or seven years to see if he can run, and by the same token, it doesn't pay to spend time and money on a dog that appears to be facing an unsuccessful future.

Many times throughout the years I have heard seasoned hunters complain that they have acquired an expensive, well-bred dog that is “naturally” gun-shy. In my mind such

The author poses with two valuable pointers that are important members of the Norias Plantation pack of 50 seasoned hunters.



by BEN W. BREEDLOVE

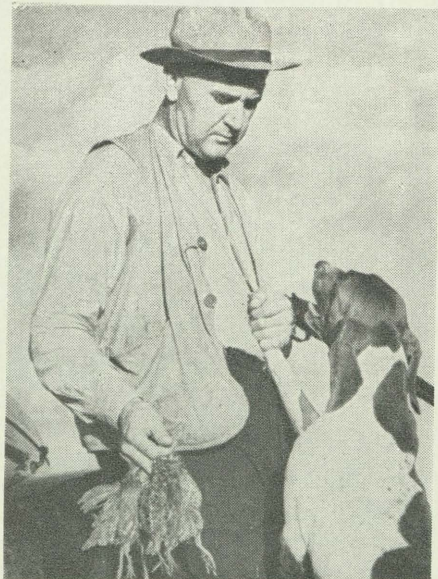
statements are top proof of utter misconception and lack of understanding of bird dogs.

There is no such thing as natural gun-shyness!

When a pointer proves gun-shy in the field it is an unquestioned reflection on the person who originally trained him. Dogs are made gun-shy by careless training. By nature they have no more fear of a gun than a baby does of an automobile. A youngster doesn't realize that a car can roll and hurt him. Neither does a dog know that a gun can injure or kill him.

I START training puppies against gun-shyness as soon as they start feeding from a pan. This sounds dif-

With expectation, this pointer awaits a kind word from his master as full reward for a job well done.



It's a matter of natural instinct that makes a pointer freeze at rigid attention once his keen nose picks up quail scent.

ficult, but in reality there's nothing to it. Before each feeding I strike the bottom of a pan held close to the puppies' ears. This noise-making program, repeated at each feeding seems to bother the youngsters slightly at first. Eventually however, they pay no attention to the din, and without knowing it, they have completed the first essential lesson in the long training period that is to follow.

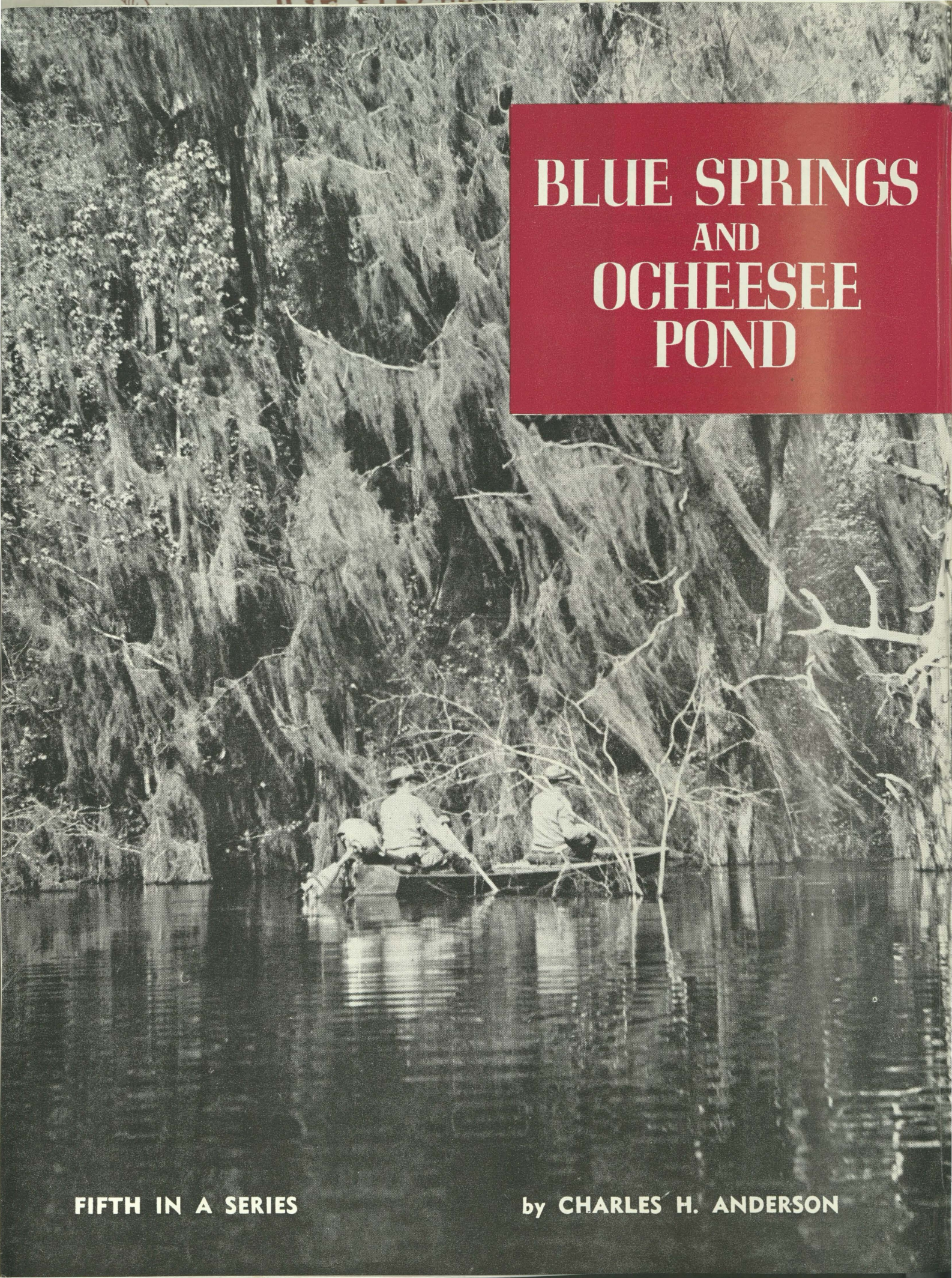
However, there is another type of "shyness," found in comparatively few dogs, that is hard to explain and harder to overcome. It's "man-shyness!" I guess all of us at some time or other have seen dogs that cringe to the ground when they are approached or spoken to. When you walk toward them, the chances are they'll pull their tail between their legs; they'll shiver pitifully when you try to pat and comfort them. Experience has taught me that breaking a dog of "man-shyness" is a hopeless feat. It's a trait that's hard to understand or explain. Personally, I believe it results from some nervous disorder. On the other hand, I've heard old-timers explain that it's a matter of instinct that dates back to the wild-dog age when man was classed as a dog's natural enemy. In any event, if your next litter contains a "man-shy" puppy, it'll be cheaper in the

long run to weed him out. The odds are definitely against breaking him of the habit.

Under ordinary conditions I start preliminary training for puppies after they are seven months old. The first days of training are simple—but very important! This first training consists mainly of turning the puppies loose in fields and woods to slowly accustom them to the different types of places where they'll eventually go to work. In a lot of ways this portion of training is like taking a country boy to the city or a city boy to the country. Everything they see and hear will be strange, yet in the same manner that the country boy becomes used to city ways and manners, so does the puppy become acclimated to the ways of the woods and field.

A month or so later, the young dogs are advanced to the second stage in the training course—and a very important section too. Each day I turn the "students" loose in territory that is known to contain quail. Then, I carefully watch for the youngsters to start "flash" pointing—that is, pointing for an instant or two when they start detecting the scent of quail. As time passes, they very likely will start chasing game, and for a portion of the training period, I actually encourage them to "flush" the birds.

(Continued Page 15)

A black and white photograph of a pond with two people in a small boat, surrounded by dense, overhanging trees. The scene is serene, with the water reflecting the surrounding foliage. The title is printed in white serif font on a red rectangular background in the upper right corner.

BLUE SPRINGS AND OCHEESSEE POND

FIFTH IN A SERIES

by CHARLES H. ANDERSON

**They aren't big, but Jackson County's two bream
"heavens" have earned a country-wide reputation.**

AS far as is generally known no one in Jackson County has ever been credited with producing a particularly outstanding mousetrap; yet certain sections of the world, especially those commonly referred to as Georgia and Alabama, have for years beat a steady path to its doors. A casual observer driving any of the county highways might sometimes be inclined to wonder whether he was in Florida, or Georgia or Alabama. During certain seasons of the year it would be mighty hard to tell.

Traveling on highways 90 or 231 in the vicinity of Marianna any day that affords reasonable fishing weather, it is not an uncommon sight to see more cars bearing tags of Georgia and Alabama than Florida plates. Not only will these cars have "foreign" tags on them but its a good bet most will have cane fishing poles tied to the sides. It's also a good safe bet that these cars are heading for one of the county's two renowned "bream-fishin' heavens."

Acre for acre, year in and year out Jackson County's Blue Springs and Ocheesee Pond probably accommodate more non-resident fishermen than any other two bodies of water in the state. Both are comparatively small, as Flor-

ida lakes go, and neither is listed by Rand McNally, but as a drawing card for bream fishermen not many waters in the South can touch them.

Blue Springs, some eight miles east of Marianna, was for countless years one of the many sources of water for the Chipola River. Shortly after the civil war a dam and grist mill was erected on the overflow stream four miles below the spring thus forming a four mile lake with an average depth of eight feet.

IT is from this old mill that the local name, Merritt's Mill Pond, was given to this crystal-clear body of water. To many of the old timers of Jackson county it is still known as the Mill Pond. In recent years, however, a power company has built a dam and hydro-electric plant at the lower end of the stream near where it flows into the Chipola river, making a lake of clear, cool spring water that is eight miles long and with an average width of half a mile.

As the waters backed up with the closing of the new power dam they covered a semi-forested area of cypress and pine. Today many hundreds of these old cypress stand, bleached and bare, in the blue waters, making landmarks for hundreds of good fishing spots. But there are many hun-

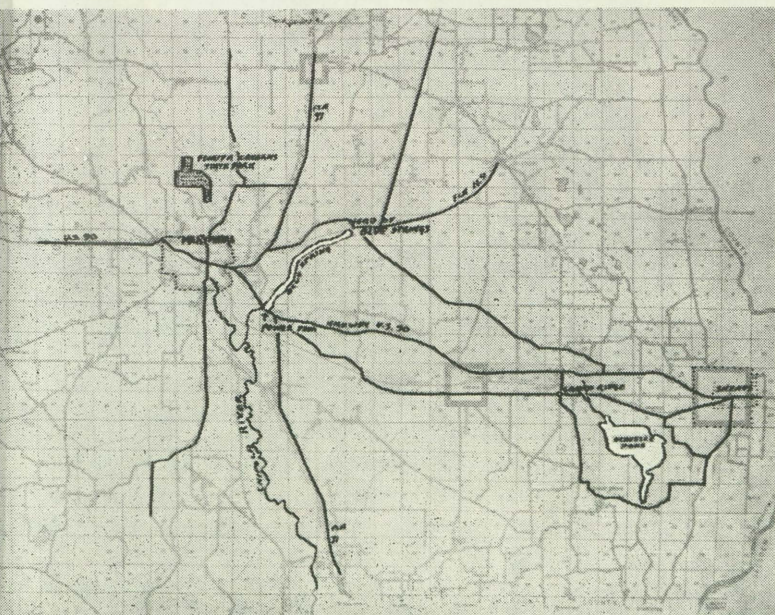


Ocheesee boasts that it is one of the few places where you can fish all day without a sunburn. Spanish moss and cypress boughs filter the sunlight.

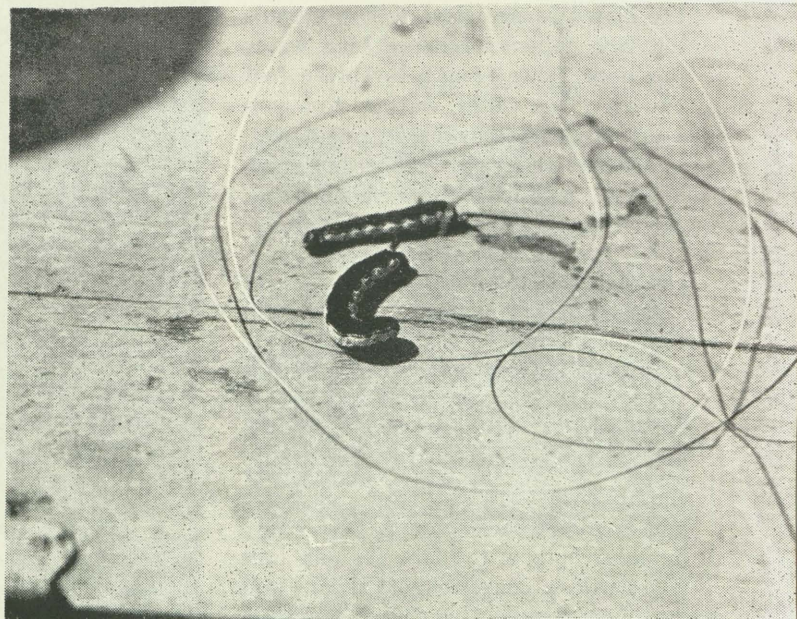
dreds more that have given up to the ravages of time and become a menace to outboard motor operation. Breaking off below the water line, these trees take an annual toll of tempers and shear pins. Unless you know the water it's a waste of good fishing time to operate your motor outside the 100 foot channel that has been cleared from the head of the spring to the gate of the dam.

Fishing is usually good on Blue Springs during all of the daylight hours, except through the hotter months when the fish will slack off

This map of Jackson County shows the fisherman how to get to Blue Springs and Ocheesee.



The catalpa worm, bait par excellence of Blue Springs and Ocheesee, takes its name from the catalpa tree in which it makes its home.





A favorite spot for the big bream; behind the dam in the swift water of the spillway.

during the middle of the day. Old steadies, who have been fishing the pond for years all have a different pet hour. Some swear by the hours of dew and early dawn; others will even insist that just after noon brings the best results. Still others will cast a glance about the heavens for a look at the moon. If it is due to rise at three, four or five in the evening that's the hour to be there. By adding all of this together the answer comes out that fishing on Blue Springs will be good at just about any hour that you happen to wet your line.

FOR a newcomer to the Springs it might be well to begin fishing at the flow proper. Here a boil of some 360,000 gallons of azure blue water per hour flows from a seventeen foot cavern. This water, warmed to a constant 70 degrees by underground heat, keeps the thousands of bream, shell-cracker, perch and bass in an active, biting mood most of the time.

With a boat from one of the numerous landings near the head of the Springs, a drift-fishing trip down the eight miles of southern scenic beauty is more than worth the time spent even if the fishing is bad. If you are primarily interested in fish though it is well to have a selection of live bait. Catalpa worms, red worms and crickets are by a large majority the most popular bait on the lake for pan fish. Bass will, of course almost always take the ever-popular live shiner or any of the great variety of artificial lures.

Any of the many camps along the bank will sell you an ample supply of any of the live baits.

The fishing gear is rigged just a bit different in this clear blue water. Instead of the usual white or green line with a short leader the whole line is made of semi-transparent nylon leader material. The object of this is to prevent the fish from spotting the line as it looks over the bait in the clear, transparent water.

If it's bass you are after the old-timers say that the best bet is about fifty feet out from the dense undergrowth of the shore line, among the old and rotten tree boles. If you are using an artificial lure it is well to select one with a weedless attachment. Old logs, stumps and underbrush will have you spending a good bit of time on the retrieve if you don't.

Panfish can be found in almost any section of the lake away from the main channel. Of course there are spots where, at certain times, you can catch your limit without moving the boat; these are few though. The best bet is to work around the areas where a number of cypress trees are growing near one another. If this doesn't produce in short order move out in the open near one of the many white, sandy spots that are to be seen on the bottom. You'll be fishing in about fifteen feet of water here so bring your cork up and let the hook down to within a few inches of the bottom. As the bait drifts off the white sand into the edge of the grass and reeds you will have a few anxious moments while watching the double-hand-sized bream working around the bait. Suddenly your unwatched cork will 'plop' and you're on the way to the limit of some of the largest bream you ever dreamed of.

(Continued Page 19)

The 70 degree water at the head of Blue Springs makes it a popular recreation area during the summer months.



If you're having
trouble finding a target
range try the city dump—
you'd be surprised at the results.

Slumming for Targets

by G. R. HUNTER

Killing crows with a muzzle-loader can be a lot of fun. Above, the author with a batch he downed at Melbourne city dump.

OUTDOOR glamour is beginning to hit the skids.

To spend a pleasant afternoon at the skeet range is considered excellent taste, but there isn't much of such going on with shotshells at two dollars plus per box, and going up. When game is out of season the average American's philosophy just now is like the Greek's who said "Skeets is the only birds you can't eat if you hit him."

But the situation isn't hopeless—if you'll take off your pretty shooting jackets and put on an old felt hat.

I got the idea several years ago in Eau Gallie, during the war when I was transferred constantly without time to learn game ranges. I found that practically every town has a city dump, often outside the city limits. Yes . . . DUMP. There are more targets of all kinds at a dump than can be found anywhere else including the American Litho Company where targets are made. Crows, blue-darters,

rats, foxes—even mangy housecats. All unprotected.

To make things even more interesting, I use muzzle-loaders at these dumps. Factories like Winchester, Remington, etc. still make fodder for them. And there's a lot of difference in cost between a ten-cent shotshell and a two-cent muzzle blast. What kind? I use a Parker 11 gauge double, Davis 12 gauge double, a Manton 20 gauge double, a Springfield 12 gauge single, a .34 rifle, even a .44 revolver. They all take the same powder (any grade of black) and caps (percussion No. 11 usually).

Crows are my main meat, because I don't like them and because they decoy well. In Melbourne I killed fourteen crows in twenty-odd minutes with a double-barrelled muzzle-loader. The only decoy I had was a wounded crow acquired by the simple process of making a poor shot. Sometimes I use a stuffed owl, a tied cat-on-a-pole, or a predatory hawk. An excellent crow de-

coy can be had by hanging a dead crow on a thin string so it will twirl in the wind. They go crazy over it.

If you intend to kill blue-darters or sharp-shinned hawks you've got to go at it a little slower. Sneak around the edge of the woods bordering the dump, particularly in spring and summer when the young aren't any smarter

(Continued Page 21)

Crows on a string make swell decoys.





The gopher snake slides into view.



Spotting the dog he tries to retreat.

DOG vs SNAKE

A Picture Feature

by Stan Waymen

Joe Bill finally gets in a death-dealing lick.



But Joe Bill catches him and he turns to fight.

Not long ago I was tramping through the wild hammock land on Jacob Heflin's ranch Moore Haven. Heflin's two dogs, Joe Bill and Rusty, were with me. Suddenly I spotted a huge gopher snake emerging from behind a log. Joe Bill spotted him too—and the fight was on.

Despite the fact that Joe Bill had twice been bitten by rattlers, he didn't hesitate. It was dog against snake, and except for one bad moment when the gopher wrapped around Joe Bill it was the dog all the way.

HAWKS . . .

(Continued from Page 5)

ON the other side of the ledger let us consider the Cooper's hawk, that justly condemned destroyer of bird life. No one who has seen him gliding swiftly through a grove of young pines or sitting motionless in the lower branches of a tree could confuse him with any other hawk except his smaller counterpart, the sharp-shinned hawk. Both of these hawks are primarily bird hawks, although the Cooper's hawk quite frequently takes rats and mice. The Department of Agriculture food habits studies show that the food of the Cooper's hawk is made up of 55 per cent small birds, 17 per cent rats and mice, 12 per cent game birds and 10 per cent poultry. Small birds form 96.4 per cent of the food of the sharp-shinned hawk.

In the consideration of birds such as these two the question arises—is the part they form in the scheme of nature beneficial or harmful to the interests of man? Presumably since they subsist largely on insectivorous birds they are harmful, but if they did not destroy these birds would it mean there would be more insectivorous birds. We think not. Scientific studies indicate that the number of small birds, or in general, any other prey species, is dependent upon the adequacy of the habitat, or specifically, the amount of food and cover available, not the number of hawks or other predators feeding upon it.

Before dismissing this thought, think of the pair of mocking birds that nest in your yard year after year. Why are there not two pairs, is it because the cats or hawks keep them from increasing? No, it is because there is just enough living space—food, cover, nesting trees, etc.—for one pair. The birds know this (call this knowledge instinct or what you will) and will permit no other mocking birds in your yard—even chasing away their own young after they are grown. Have you noticed when one of these birds is killed how quickly it is replaced?

Think of the one covey of quail in the corner of the back pasture. You didn't shoot it last year in the hope that this fall there would be several

coveys since several pairs were left; but when this fall rolled around there was still only one covey—simply because there is only enough food and cover in that particular area for one covey.

THESE are only illustrations of a principle that extends throughout the animal kingdom. So when we say that the blue darters are harmful because they destroy insectivorous birds or even game birds we are not quite certain that we are right. Perhaps they are really of very little consequence in determining the abundance of game or song birds and perhaps we should only shoot them under specific situations where we know

SCIENCE AT WORK

If a papa whistling frog has a dark brown shield, and mama has light brown strips on her back, will their third son have stripes or a shield? That is the question.

To find the answer, Dr. C. J. Goin, assistant professor of biological sciences at the University of Florida, didn't plunge into the college library. Instead, he spent over \$1,000 on a 900-mile field trip to Jamaica where he camped six weeks in the Jamaican Blue Mountains, collecting 2,500 frogs.

Dr. Goin presently is working on an analysis of data gathered on the trip. The information will have no economic value, he explained, but it will be an addition to man's knowledge.

they are harming our game birds or poultry. Nevertheless, in the light of our present inadequate knowledge it will probably be advisable to continue to shoot blue darters. They are sufficiently numerous and sufficiently able to care of themselves to remove any serious danger of extinction.

Assuming that he is genuinely interested in killing only the so-called harmful hawks, the average sportsman is still at a loss to a means of separating the good ones from the bad ones. The accompanying charts and diagrams outline easily grasped methods for making this distinction.

In shooting hawks there is a very workable rule that even the most in-

experienced novice can follow and be right 90 per cent of the time—spare all hawks except the long-tailed, short-winged one that flies along with rapid wing beats, broken by short glides, or that darts swiftly and silently through the lower branches of trees.

Now I would like to bring up one final and too often neglected thought—the value to the sportsman of just seeing wildlife. Too many sportsmen take wildlife, other than game, for granted and fail to realize how much has been added to their trip afield by their encounters with hawks and other non-game wildlife. Excellent quail hunting might conceivably become dull to the hunter—presumably a lover of wildlife—if he saw nothing but quail day after day on his hunting trips. I doubt if any but the most callous meat hunter can fail to be interested and inspired by the sight of the graceful marsh hawk soaring smoothly over some open meadow, the majestic red-tailed hawk wheeling slowly in the sky, the piercing scream of the red-shouldered hawk sounding from some cypress swamp margin or even the justly maligned Cooper's hawk darting with almost unbelievable swiftness through a thicket of young pines. Think about it, Mr. Sportsman, and ask yourself what hunting experience of ten years ago lingers most vividly in your memory—is it the limit of quail you killed on a certain day or is it the mental picture you have of a Cooper's hawk picking off in mid-air one of the very quail you flushed?

It has been discovered that the mockingbird can imitate at least 32 songs of other types of birds.

The young of the white bass are generally found on the leeward side of the lake on a windy day, while older fish are almost invariably on the windward side.

The heat of a lightning bolt turns the moisture of the wood cells to steam, exploding the wood. Lightning sometimes completely girdles the tree.

Ducks have a transparent membrane to pull over their eyes when in flight—like goggles.

The average weight of an elephant's tusk is about 55 lbs. although some exceed 100 lbs.

Turtles live in the water, but they lay their eggs in the sand away from water.

They're **BITING** Here

MYAKKA RIVER

The Myakka River in Manatee County is a swell bet if you are interested in bream or bass. You'll get your share of both species if you fish the deep holes. Use live bait for the bass and worms for bream and do your fishing in the early morning.

★ ★ ★

WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER

Bass, and good ones too, are hitting mighty good in the Withlacoochee in Sumter county. Live bait will be your best fish getter. J. Hager, manager of Dick's Fish Camp, scored with a 12-pound big mouth a short time ago. On the same day, Mrs. Hager listed two 5-pounders on the tally sheet. They used shiners to get 'em. While you're in the territory, you'd better drop a line in Panasoffkee lake too. Bass are rarin' there too.

★ ★ ★

LAKE COUNTY

Bass and speckled perch are hitting in the St. Johns River, north of Crow's Bluff. Do your fishing early mornings and late evenings. Use a frog colored Baby 2000 for bass and an Eagle Claw plug for the specks. The perch are doing business in a big way too in Lake Dexter and Lake Woodruff, in nearby Volusia county. Try a shad colored Eagle Claw for bait in those waters.

★ ★ ★

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Pick most any of Washington county's ponds and you are a cinch to take home the bag limit of bass or bream. Fishermen are cashing in at Gully Pond, Hammond Pond, Party Pond and Boat Pond. While fishing in Hick's Pond recently, Bill McFalter, of Vernon, connected with eight bass and three jacks. He used a top-water bait. The bream are biting on red worms and earth worms.

★ ★ ★

LAKE SANTA FE

If you get a kick out of bream fishing or are looking for the material for a swell catfish fry, start wetting your lines in Lake Santa

Fe, Hampton Lake or Rowell Lake in Bradford county. Fish early or late and use worms or minnows. Dale Crawford, of Starke, recently hit the jackpot with a string of 15 bream and four nice catfish.

★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★

ST. LUCIE CANAL

Black bass, snook and even fightin' tarpon are waiting for customers on the St. Lucie Canal near Fort Pierce. Your luck at catching bream will be good too. Use your favorite bait and fish early in the morning or late afternoon.

★ ★ ★

PASCO COUNTY

Take your choice of any lake or creek in Pasco county and you are headed for a pleasant and productive time of landing perch and bass. Try a Johnson spoon with pork rind and fish during any part of the day that suits you.

★ ★ ★

SUWANNEE RIVER

Salt water trout are hitting now at the mouth of the Suwannee in Dixie county. Use cut mullet for bait and do your fishing early in the morning or late afternoons. If you are interested in adding bream to your day's catch, try your luck in Dixie county's famous California Lake.

★ ★ ★

LAKE APOPKA

Your bass and crappie fishing will go into high gear if you wet your line in Lake Apopka near Winter Garden. Both species are biting all day long. Live bait and trolling have been hitting the jackpot. Dick Dean recently boated a nice 10-pound bass along with three that averaged nearly three pounds each.

★ ★ ★

BREVARD COUNTY

Big mouth bass are hitting at the south end of Little Sawgrass and also on the north end of Lake Washington in Brevard county. Johnson spoons, 2000 plugs or the Florida Shiner have been ringing the gong. Do your fishing early in the morning.

HANDLE WITH CARE

(Continued from Page 7)

I have found that bird dogs point instinctively, in much the same manner as cats automatically crouch to kill their prey. What's more it is natural instinct that makes a dog want to flush coveys of quail. When this portion of the training is completed, I cull out and eliminate each puppy that has shown no inclination to flash point or flush.

ONCE the successful candidates have been promoted to the next portion of training, I secure them with cords attached to their collars and start working them with seasoned dogs. Each time a trained dog points game, we lead the puppies to the area and encourage them to point too. This portion of training covers many weeks and ends only when the "students" have definitely demonstrated steadiness in their pointing. For some members of the class, graduation in this part of the training means the end of being restrained by a cord. For the ones that didn't measure up to the requirements, it means failing grades and dismissal from the training class.

Training for the "senior class" is of highest importance because it will determine once and for all if the student is destined to be a good or bad hunter. Humans find health and endurance of first importance in their success or failure in the business or professional world, and the same requirements are equally important if a bird dog is to become an unquestioned success. He must possess health and strength that make it possible for him to hunt, and hunt hard, for three consecutive hours in cool weather. In addition, he must show an immediate response to your affections and commands and, above all, respect you at all times. Your voice must be law with a properly trained dog and he must be willing to respond promptly to your commands to "come here," "heel," or, "whoa." I have no regard for a dog that doesn't respect my orders. In my estimation, a dog that leaves you in the field, conducts his private hunt out of sight and sound and pays no heed when he's called, is worse than hunting with no dog at all: I always insist on my dogs

hunting WITH me or else not hunting at all.

There's an old saying that "to spare the rod is to spoil the child," but I've found the theory doesn't work in dog training. For my money, a kind voice eventually will gain and hold respect

Did You Know--

The longest flight on record for any banded bird is that of an Arctic Tern banded at Turnevik Bay, Labrador, and found on the beach at Margate on the east coast of South Africa. The shortest possible distance between points is 8,000 miles and the probable course would be around 9,000 miles.

★ ★ ★

The hippopotamus is really a pig. His name means river horse.

★ ★ ★

The butterfly was originally called the flutterby.

★ ★ ★

The dog was the first, and the horse the last, animal to be domesticated by man.

★ ★ ★

The armored catfish does not have ordinary scales, but rather overlapping armor plates. The fish, good scavengers, lay eggs in bubble-nests in plants at the surface of water.

★ ★ ★

A horse hair lariat is not a complete barrier to a western diamond-back rattlesnake. His belly scales are too tough for it to stop him.

★ ★ ★

The kiwi bird of new Zealand is a smart fellow. Knowing that worms come to the surface of the ground when it is raining, he imitates the sound of rain by stamping on the ground with his feet, thereby decoying up a meal.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. Gary Lewis of Winnipeg, Canada, is the first woman to win an open trap-shooting championship against a field of men.

that certainly cannot be attained in any whipping routine. Once in a great while I get a "problem child" in my training class—a hard-headed dog that refuses to recognize his name or respect my commands. He's the only type I ever whip. But there are sev-

eral things to remember when punishing a stubborn or disobedient dog—never lose your temper, and by all means, don't lay the whip on too hard. Instead of winning the dog over to your side with a hard thrashing, you easily can ruin his future, make him afraid of you, and lose his respect forevermore.

During three years of World War II, I trained and handled dogs for army combat service and, the whole procedure was quite similar to training bird dogs. It was simply the same procedure of developing a dog's hearing, sight and smell, and above everything else, winning and holding his affection and respect. Those are mighty important training points no matter what breed of dog you are handling.

THERE are quite a few things to consider before you decide to go into the bird dog training business seriously. One of the most important is the matter of feed bills. A few short years ago I boarded dogs in Alabama for \$5 a month—and three dollars was pure profit. But times have changed for man and beast alike and here on the Norias Plantation, where I am the dog trainer, it actually costs us \$10 each month to give a dog his proper rations of horse meat, dry dog food, vegetables, buttermilk and cod liver oil. Our present "dog family" consists of 50 old dogs and 20 puppies which adds up to a considerable monthly grocery bill. Then too you mustn't lose sight of the fact that a bird dog is more or less in the "specialist" class since he can only be used for hunting during the short annual open quail season. Bear hounds or wildcat dogs present an entirely different picture because you can hunt with them practically year-round.

During the bird dog "off season" it'll be necessary for you to exercise your dogs daily to keep them in top physical and mental condition for the season that's to come. What's more they'll depend on you to feed 'em good and regular throughout the "vacation" period too. There's no doubt about bird dogs taking a lot of your time and money—but it's an effort well spent because, and I repeat, they're the most intelligent working dog in the business!



Clubs

By RALPH G. COOKSEY
President, Florida Wildlife Federation

DRAWING A CROWD

A chain is no stronger than its weakest link, neither is a sportsman's club any bigger than the membership it attracts on meeting night. No matter if your club has a thousand names on the membership roll, if only a handful show up at regular meetings then your organization is going backward. There are far too many clubs in Florida today that are in the latter class, and most of the failures can be traced to lack of "know how" on the part of the officers to stimulate regular attendance.

Thus, attracting and holding maximum attendance at all meetings is a problem that is deserving of deliberate and careful study on the part of each club's staff of officers. Many clubs are slowly discovering that careful selection of its publicity and entertainment committees is the key to success. After all, if the two committees mentioned are constantly "on the ball," a marked and healthy attendance increase is bound to result. Rome wasn't built in a day, neither can well organized publicity and entertainment committees perform miracles overnight. Chances are, the committee members will be in for a long hard pull, especially if the club's meeting attendance has notably been on the downgrade for a considerable period of time. Rebuilding it will be a slow process, but one that is destined to succeed if the committeemen are willing to "take a licking" now and then when bad weather or other unforeseen situations bring out a mere corporal's guard.

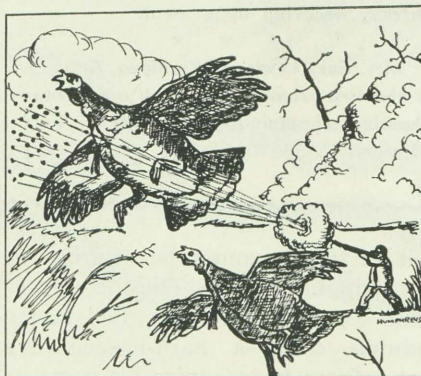
Publicity is of highest importance in making a sportsman's club successful. Members of the publicity committee should be men who have imagination and know how to get club stories in the columns of the local newspapers or in news broadcasts of radio stations. On the other hand, good showmanship is an essential requirement in appointing a club's entertainment committee.

ENTERTAINMENT IMPORTANT

In the past many clubs have failed to push entertainment features as "attendance getters" mainly because the club officials reasoned that the plan would prove too costly. Such reasoning is definitely contrary to fact. As a matter of fact, by making proper connections, any club entertainment committee can stage outstanding features each meeting night at *no cost whatsoever!*

As an example, the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission maintains a sizeable movie film library as a free service to sportsmen's clubs and other organizations. Of course films are always in demand and entertainment committees should plan their entertainment features far in advance and make arrangements for Game Commission films weeks or even months before they are to be used.

Recently the Game Commission offered sportsmen's clubs the services of Joe Padderatz, armless rod and reel fisherman who stages a half-hour demonstration that is bound to attract an overflow attendance if the feature is properly publicized. As an example of what can be accomplished with the movie film-Padderatz combination, the Volusia County Sportsman's Association at Daytona Beach recently attracted a gigantic crowd of 6,000 when the "special meeting" was staged at the Daytona Beach bandshell. Enthused with the results, the club's entertainment committee decided to give a



"I hate to say it, but sometimes I wish I was a buzzard!"

repeat performance two weeks later, and 8,500 persons attended. Certainly those two meetings resulted in greatly added popularity for the organization—and it didn't cost one penny!

FEEDING THE MEMBERS

Many clubs are learning that another sure way of attracting maximum attendance is "through a man's stomach." Club members generally are a sure bet to attend any meeting when a "feed" is staged.

"It doesn't make any difference if we stage a fish dinner, a chicken fry or serve the boys plain old hot dogs—they're a cinch to attend every meeting when we put on the feed bag," the president of a growing north Florida club said recently in explaining his success in consistently attracting the hundred per cent attendance of his membership. What's more, he'll tell you that staging regular feeds is resulting in attracting plenty of new members.

Most clubs, by putting the "ding" on the persons attending the joint banquet-business sessions, stage the affairs without digging into the club treasury for a single penny.

It's acknowledged that a club must have a large membership roll if it is to assume a position of respect and authority in a community. On the other hand, unless your meetings are interesting, your club probably will be doomed to failure regardless of how many names are contained in the membership list. Pep up your club programs in 1949—whether it be with free movies or hot dog sandwiches—and your club eventually will be recognized as a powerful community organization.

CONSERVATION NOTES

The 14th North American Wildlife Conference will be staged March 7, 8 and 9 at the Statler Hotel, Washington, D. C., and officials predict the all-time attendance record for these gatherings will be shattered. Increased interest in conservation, the selection of the nation's capitol as the meeting place, and other factors point toward the largest and most important international conservation gathering ever assembled.

The Honorable A. Willis Robertson, U. S. Senator from Virginia and co-author of the Pittman-Robertson Act, will serve as chairman of the important opening session. He will be assisted by Carl Shoemaker, Washington correspondent for the National Wildlife Federation, who will act as discussion leader.

This session will be preceded by the formal opening of the Conference by Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, president of the Wildlife Management Institute, and its program will include distinguished names in the field of conservation.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FEDERATION NOTES

OFFICERS

President.....Ralph Cooksey, St. Petersburg
Treasurer.....E. A. Markham, Gulfport

Recording Secretary.....George A. Speer, Sanford
Executive Secretary Mrs. Helen Sullivan

Milton Club Stages Big Annual Banquet; 120 Members Attend

MILTON—The Santa Rosa Sportsmen's Club celebrated its first birthday here last month with a banquet which attracted more than 120 members and guests.

Officials from the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and the Florida Wildlife Federation were present at the meeting.

State Senator Newman Brackin of Crestview was the principal speaker. Brackin praised the work of the Santa Rosa club and its conservation efforts. The senator pointed out that hunting and fishing was both a recreational and economic asset to northwest Florida, and that the section's game and fish resources should be conserved and protected.

He praised the present conservation program of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and commended Commission Director Ben C. Morgan for his action and leadership.

"We may not always agree with Ben Morgan," said Senator Brackin, "but we'll have to admit he's getting a job done."

Other speakers for the evening included Game Commission Director Morgan; State Representative Woodrow Melvin; Ralph G. Cooksey, president of the Florida Wildlife Federation; Cecil M. Webb, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commissioner from the First District; and William W. Weeks, director of information and education for the game commission.

West Palm Beach Clubmen Hear Commission Officials

Members of the Palm Beach County Sportsman's Club heard addresses by Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission officials at a recent barbecue at the Flotilla Club in West Palm Beach.

Speaking on restocking, and conservation and preservation of wildlife were J. W. Corbett, chairman of the commission; Ben C. Morgan, director, and Dr. I. N. Kennedy, public relations administrator.



Sen. Newman Brackin, president of the State Senate, addresses the Santa Rosa Sportsmen's Club at its recent annual meeting. Other speakers included Ben C. Morgan (left of speaker), Cecil M. Webb (right) and Ralph G. Cooksey, not shown in the picture.

Old-Fashioned Shindig Staged by Volusia Club

DELAND—The recent staging of an old-fashioned cane grinding and syrup boiling party proved to be a unique success for the Volusia County Wildlife Association.

Hundreds of guests, including entire families, thronged to the home of Leon Reynolds where the party was held. Admission to the party was gained with either two cans of milk, a package of pancake flour, or a half dozen eggs.

Preceding an evening of unusual entertainment, the guests drank fresh cane juice and enjoyed a supper of hot cakes and fresh syrup. During the meeting, several veteran Volusia county residents described the "good old days" of hunting and fishing.

The Association has announced a 1949 project of sponsoring a junior wildlife association to include boys of high school age and even younger.

Contest Winners In Derby are Announced

The Levy County Wildlife Conservation Club, through its predator committee chairman, Bob Brooks, has announced the results of its predator reduction contest. The Predator Derby, sponsored by the club, extended from April through September.

First prize winner was Hade Locke, a farmer living near Chiefland, who received an automatic .22 rifle, carton of .22 cartridges and a rifle cleaning kit. He accounted for 21 foxes, 15 opossum and 2 skunks. Second prize, a .22 rifle and carton of cartridges was won by Willard Lewis, fourteen year old Williston farm boy. Third prize of hunting coat and cap, and box of shotgun shells went to Homer Locke, farmer, R.F.D., Chiefland. Bobby Pryor, Williston, scored in fourth place to win a thermos jug and box of shotgun shells, and Willie Winningham, youthful farmer of Morristown, was fifth to win a hunting knife, casting line and plug.

STICKS AND STONES

(Continued from Page 2)

TRIBUTE FROM ABROAD

Dear Sir:

With a very pleasure I am reading your fine review, *Florida Wildlife*, which gives many precious informations really unknown in Europe. Such articles are: "Let's Go Skishing," (April); "Casting Class For The Small Fry," (May); and "Fishing Party Deluxe," (July)-

If you would kindly place at my disposal these photos published in *Florida Wildlife*, I could publish here some illustrated articles making fine publicity for Florida. I need so much pictures because our illustrated weeklies prefer articles with a series of photos. My best wishes and many thanks in anticipations.

Dr. Hj. Unger, Publisher,
ESPERANTO-PRESS,
Zurich, Switzerland

(The pictures you request are on the way. Florida will appreciate receiving publicity in your magazine and, meanwhile, we'll look forward to welcoming your countrymen to try out our fishing—the best in the whole world.—ED.)

LIKES OUR FISHING NEWS

Dear Sir:

Florida Wildlife, which I have been receiving for several months, is a dandy. I especially enjoy the articles on fishing and the column, "They're Bitin' Here."

Thanks for such a fine magazine.

J. B. KNIGHT, SR.,
Tampa

PROSPECTIVE FLORIDA FISHERMAN

Dear Sir:

I have been receiving your excellent publication for several months and I honestly get more real pleasure out of it than from any of several other outdoor magazines I read each month.

I am moving to Florida next year and expect to do a lot of fishing and hunting in your wonderful state.

Keep up the fine work you are doing.

O. R. CLARK,
Joliet, Illinois

A CONFUSING ERROR

Dear Sir:

... Someone should advise Ed C. Buckow, writer of the article, "What About Coots," December issue of *Florida Wildlife*, that the legal coot limit is 15 and not 20 as specified in the story...

FRED JONES
Lakeland

(Author Buckow blames a faulty typewriter for that awful blunder. Your editor, who passed the faulty copy, blames the office gremlin for slipping through a mistake that was obvious to everyone from the Director on down to the janitor.—ED.)

HIGH COMMENDATION

Dear Sir:

I have just enjoyed reading a copy of the November issue of *Florida Wildlife* and wish to commend you highly for the many worthwhile stories and useful information that your capable staff has incorporated into this interesting magazine.

I am an old-time resident of this beautiful Florida and an ardent sports fisherman. I travel for my company and meet scores of out-of-state visitors as well as the good ole crackers such as I.

I would like very much to be able to get on your monthly mailing list if it is at all possible. I am active in Masonic work in my city and would gladly see to it that our lodge reading room received my used copies.

WILLIS B. LONG,
Tamiami Trail Tours, Inc.
Tampa

NETTER WANTS CONSERVATION

Dear Sir:

"Conflict or Misunderstanding" was an interesting editorial. Although there's a great deal of controversy and ill-feeling among sports and commercial fishermen, I, a commercial fisherman, have discussed the problem with many others and they all pretty well agree there should be a statewide law prohibiting the use of stop nets and heavy seines.

Most sports fishermen consider a net of any description as a detriment to their type of fishing. This, of course, is a false assumption since a gill net (legal size not to exceed 9-20 cotton or 18-3 linen) is used chiefly to catch mullet which is not a game fish.

Snook, red fish and others of this type go through a gill net and always leave a large hole to be mended. But it's true that seines and heavy stop nets catch these game fish and are cursed by gill netters and hook and line fishermen alike.

If all of Florida's saltwater was opened to legal sized gill nets, the netters would cooperate wholeheartedly in seeing that illegal stop netting and seining ceased. I would like to see such a bill passed in the 1949 legislature.

EARL WIGGINS,
Fort Myers

HELP FOR BRITISH STUDENT

Dear Sir:

I am studying about Florida in my school geography, and wildlife in my biology class. I am 14 years old and go to the Bingley Grammar School. Will you please rush me the *Florida Wildlife* magazine to help me out in my studies?

PHILIP RUSHWORTH
Bingley, Yorkshire
England

CONFLICT OR MISUNDERSTANDING?

Dear Sir:

Has John F. Dequine, writer of "Conflict Or Misunderstanding," in the October *Florida Wildlife*, ever seen runs of blue fish so concentrated that they resembled dark shadows cast by clouds along Florida's seacoast? Since when? It used to be a common sight and the runs lasted for days.

Has he ever surf fished and had to actually reel in so that the greedy boys in skiffs could drag their nets practically ashore? This has happened time and time again to sports fishermen especially in Palm Beach county and immediately north of it. What would he call that,

Any farmer or conservationist understands the value of a fence row with some undergrowth to protect small game. I, for one, would compare the shoreline, placed outward at a respectable distance, to such a fence row.

As a tourist, I have seen serious netting violations going on in different parts of the state right under the noses of the very people pledged to support the industry for all concerned. The balance has already been disturbed, so, who's going to be fool enough to think that even the ocean, without conservation, is an inexhaustible source of fish.

Violators, especially commercial fishermen, because of the amount of damage, should be brought into line or put out of business.

R. W. CLINDANIEL,
Sprig O' Mint Farm,
Bremen, Indiana.

(John Dequine is strictly a fresh water biologist and your suggestions seem to concern salt water over which the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has no control. On your next visit to Florida be sure and report any fresh water netting violation you witness. Our law enforcement officers will handle the violation promptly.—ED.)

FLORIDA HAS THE MAKINGS

Dear Sir:

I received the current copy of *Florida Wildlife* a few days ago, and I want to thank you. I have seen a few copies of the magazine in town and have wondered how I could manage to get it regularly. I wouldn't say other wildlife magazines are "sorry." All those I have seen I think are good, but from the few copies of *Florida Wildlife* I've seen, I do think it is outstanding and really in a class by itself. But then too, we have the material in Florida for the makings of a good magazine.

O. K. POMEROY SR.
Ft. Myers

Old Predator Theory Contradicted Thru Biological Analysis

The theory that predatory animals favor a game bird diet—a favorite of sportsmen—has been contradicted by a food habit analysis of these animals by B. A. Barrington of the University of Florida's biology department.

O. Earl Frye, the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's chief wildlife biologist, says that "although the study was comparatively small, the results tie-in with the findings of biologists in other southeastern states where similar programs have been conducted."

Frye said the dissection of the stomachs of 114 predators disclosed the remains of only 11 animals and three birds—all of them non-game. Insects, the report showed, constituted most of the diet of the so-called predators. Only the bobcat proved to be carnivorous to a large degree.

Of the 17 bobcat stomachs examined, none contained birds and seven contained mammal remains. These were pig, cotton rat and rabbit. Out of 30 fox stomachs analyzed, only three contained animal remains. Three of 36 possum bellies contained non-game bird feathers, and one held the remains of a pocket gopher. Thirty-one skunk stomachs were examined and none had a trace of birds or mammals.

The biologist said the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission had been collecting predatory animals for analysis over the last few months in an effort to solve the "ever controversial" question of the predator's effect on game populations.

DUCK KILL RUNS HIGH

Hunters in northwest Florida cashed in on ducks the first day of the migratory bird season.

Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission estimates place the opening day duck kill in lakes Miccosukee, Iamonia and Jackson, three of the area's choicest waterfowl spots, at over 1,200. Wildlife officers estimate that 90 per cent of the nimrods on Lake Miccosukee got their limit of waterfowl.

KIDS ENJOY VENISON

Okeechobee school children recently enjoyed a fine feast as the result of an eight-point buck deer's misfortune.

Chairman J. W. Corbett, State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and Curtis Wright, Fourth District chief wildlife officer, presented the deer to the Okeechobee school lunchroom after it was instantly killed by an automobile on a nearby highway.



While hunters were making every effort to kill a deer, Third District Wildlife Officer Jess Harrison and little Beth Anderson, Tallahassee, were striving to keep one alive. This fawn was hand-fed by the officer after it ran against a fence and was seriously injured.

BLUE SPRINGS . . .

(Continued from Page 10)

OCHEESE POND, twenty miles southeast of Marianna is, like Blue Springs, a man made lake. Prior to the early 1930's it was a cypress swamp formed by the natural drainage from surrounding hills. Local sportsmen, with an eye on the future, reasoned that an earth dam would improve the waters and turn the otherwise useless swamp into what would someday be a swell fishing hole. With the help of government funds and labor the dam was erected and the "fishing hole" turned out to be a 5,000 acre shade-covered lake.

Stocked, shortly after the waters reached an average level, by the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, with fingerling bass and the many varieties of pan fish, Ocheesee has become one of northwest Florida's most popular fishing lakes.

Unlike Blue Springs and its clear water, Ocheesee Pond is known as a body of 'black water.' Rain water and a few small springs being its source of water supply the flow from the lake is small and sluggish. Tannic acid from the roots of thousands of cypress trees give the water it's almost coffee-brown color.

Fishing on Ocheesee is best in the early morning. Many anglers whether casting for bass or still fishing for bream with the ever-popular catalpa worm or cricket, are on the pond an hour or two before sun-up. For some reason the fish in this black-water pond bite best just as day is breaking. However, that doesn't mean that fish aren't to be caught during other hours of the day, it's just that you get your bag limit quicker in the early hours.

Offering something novel in the way of fishing, Ocheesee is one of the few places where you can spend the entire day fishing from a boat without a blistering from the sun. The waters of the Pond, especially in the best fishing areas, are thickly grown with living cypress trees laced with Spanish moss; closer to shore massive oaks stand in among the stately cypress, all lending to the illusion of fishing in a cool, moss hung cavern.

So, when you are drifting, and drinking in the wild beauty of the cypress studded, moss-covered lakes, remember, that even though you don't catch your limit of fish, "Allah does not deduct from the allotted time of man those hours spent in fishing."



Former Governor Millard Caldwell (left), Mrs. Caldwell (second from left) and their party proudly display the results of a morning turkey hunt on Norias plantation in Jefferson County.

Crescent City Rotary Sponsors Tournament

CRESCENT CITY—A non-profit fishing tournament, sponsored by the local Rotary Club, is attracting scores of registrations from sportsmen in this area. The contest is scheduled to close April 1.

Topping the long list of prizes to be awarded to lucky anglers are an outboard motor for the man catching the largest bass, and a rod and reel for the woman making the best bass catch.

The 50-cent membership cards, good throughout the tournament, are being sold at local hotels, fishing camps, tourist courts, stores and restaurants. Miller's Grocery has been designated as the official weighing station. However, fish caught in the contest also can be weighed at the nearest fishing camp to the place the catch is made.

To be eligible for prizes, the anglers must take their fish in the Fruitland Peninsula which extends from Dunn's Creek to the Volusia county line. Also eligible will be bass caught in the immediate area surrounding Pierson and Seville in Volusia county and in the St. Johns River in the Palatka-Welaka-Georgetown area.

The pigeon is the only bird that drinks by suction. All other birds take the water into their mouths and throw their heads back in order to swallow.

New Game Technician Joins Wildlife Division

Robert C. Garrison has joined the Game Management Division of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Chief Wildlife Biologist O. Earl Frye has announced.

Frye said Garrison, a graduate biologist, would be placed in charge of the commission's statewide quail survey and trapping program. Under the program, quail will be live-trapped from suburban areas and citrus groves and transplanted in areas available for hunting.

Garrison is a graduate of Oregon State College, and previously worked as a game biologist for the Arizona Game and Fish Commission.

He will be stationed at Punta Gorda, Frye said.

Former State Warden Joins Fish and Wildlife Service

Bill Arline, former Second District wildlife officer, has joined the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service as an aircraft pilot.

Although he is headquartered at Lake Charles, La., Arline will spend much of his time on patrol and survey duty along Florida's gulf coast.

Flying a four-place amphibious plane, Arline will patrol Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Four Persons Killed And Seven Injured In Hunting Mishaps

Four people were killed and seven injured in hunting accidents between November 24 and Dec. 15, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission records show.

Three of the fatalities resulted from drowning in northwest Florida. The fourth resulted from a shooting accident. Of seven non-fatal accidents reported to the commission, four resulted from hunters being shot by their companions.

The report evidenced that the season has been hazardous for assistant fire chiefs. Thomas O. Peacock, Jacksonville's assistant chief, was slightly injured by the gunfire of his hunting companion. In Lee County, Shep Bass, assistant fire chief at Ft. Myers, also was accidentally shot by a hunting companion.

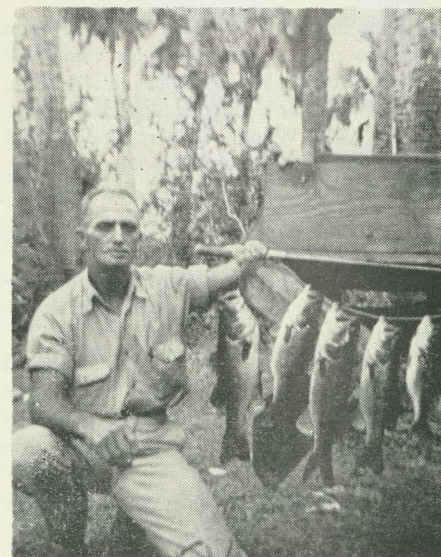
Florida Fishathon Idea Spreads to Other States

The State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's first Kids' Fishathon, staged at St. Petersburg last July, is still garnering national publicity.

An article appearing in the December issue of the *Sporting Goods Dealer*, credited the St. Petersburg fishing party with being the first ever held in the United States and revealed that many similar parties have been held since in many widely scattered states.

The story carried a picture of the St. Petersburg kids lined up ready to start fishing at Round Lake where the big event was staged.

These five bass, weighing 18 pounds, were caught in Hickey's Creek in Lee County by O. K. Pomeroy of Ft. Myers.



FLORIDA WILDLIFE

Sports Afield Goes All Out On Florida

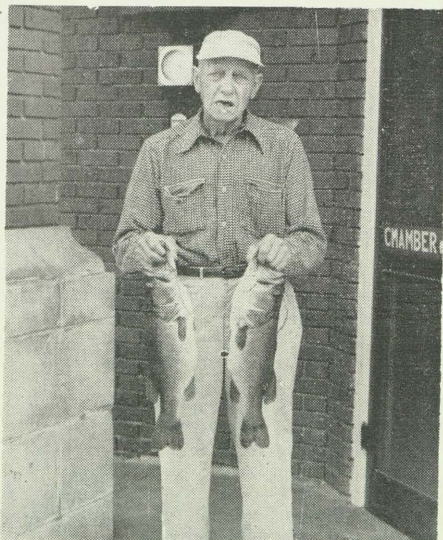
Florida's famous hunting and fishing is scheduled for another national publicity splash when the February issue of **SPORTS AFIELD**, world's largest sportsmen's magazine, hits the newstand.

Dave Newell, noted outdoorsman and a recognized hunting and fishing authority, prepared the article which gives an "around the calendar" description of hunting and fishing in the Sunshine State.

Newell's story, consisting of 12 pages of text and many beautiful four-color pictures, will appear in a solid section in the February issue.

There are several carefully selected pictures to help tell the story of hunting and fishing in all sections of the state. One of them shows three white tailed deer bounding through a piney flatwoods in South Florida. Another is a close-up view of a concentration of wild turkeys in Orange county. One of the pictures, snapped in the Kissimmee Prairie region, shows a big raccoon making a thrilling 35-foot jump from a tree where he'd been sleeping in a hawk's nest.

Of course the state's famous tarpon fishing wasn't forgotten, and a 70-pounder is shown making a mighty leap while attempting to throw a plug from his mouth. Other fishing scenes depict bass fishing in Lake Okeechobee and also in North Florida's Dead Lakes. Migratory waterfowl, wintering in Florida, also will be given considerable picture space in the forthcoming magazine. An action shot of Canadian geese was made at the St. Marks refuge. Another shows two mallards tipping up in their efforts to reach for food in Orlando's beautiful Lake Eola.



Billy Vey, of Mount Dora displays a four and a five-pound bass caught in a lake on the outskirts of town.



Three of Florida's top wildlife officials offer proof they are as much at home in the woods as they are at a conference table. Left to right, Cecil M. Webb, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commissioner from the First District, Louis G. Morris, Third District Commissioner, and Ralph G. Cooksey, president of the Florida Wildlife Federation, with the results of a morning turkey hunt in Jefferson County.

SLUMMING FOR TARGETS

(Continued from Page 11)

than you are. Or set up a stuffed owl in the middle of the dump.

My preferred system for crows is to inspect the dump while the crows are there. Don't get impatient and take a shot at them. See where they are thickest. Return between sundown and dark while they're gone, and build a blind—a big one, because you can't muzzle-load in a phone booth.

Get there before daylight next morning and leave your car a long way off. If you have a live crow to tie out in front so much the better, but if not, you can soon get one. The first one you kill, hurry out and tie up with a string and tie a dark thin line to it which is led back to your blind so you can do the twirling if the wind quits.

Don't ever let a crow see you if you can prevent it. If a crow flies directly over your blind so he can see its inwards and you, quit whatever you're doing and freeze until he leaves—unless of course, you can kill him.

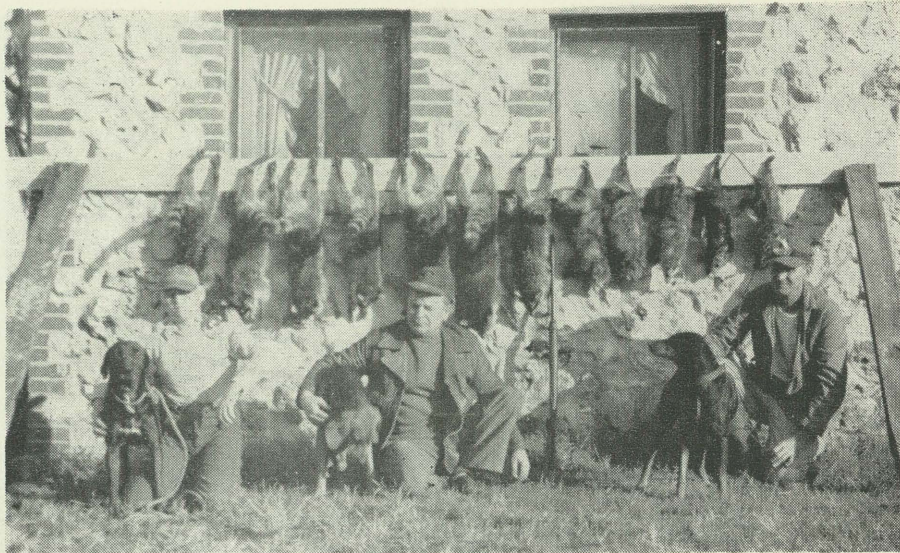
I use the same amount of black powder by bulk as will half fill a common shotgun hull of the same gauge, and an equal amount of shot. Needn't be too careful about this since it can vary quite a bit. I prefer size 6 shot but I use anything. Ordinary toilet

tissue makes the best wadding and it has practically no fire hazard.

You never had such a time as you'll have trying to keep a black-powder thunderstick loaded while two crows are falling, a half dozen are screaming bloody murder on the ground, a hundred more are cursing you from above, and over all hangs the tantalizing odor of sour beans!



Not every good catch comes from fresh water says CPO Robert J. Neal of the Pensacola Naval Air Station. Here he is shown with a 68½ pound black grouper taken 10 miles off Pensacola Beach.



Twelve-year-old Joe Rose, Barney Barnhart and Paul M. Rose, all of Gainesville, are shown with the results of one night's hunting in Alachua County.

Inland Fishermen Fond Of Deep-Sea Sport Too

Salt water angling long has been a favorite sport with coastal sportsmen, but according to a recent survey made by *Outdoorsmen Magazine* the coastal boys can no longer claim the sport all to themselves.

The survey, projected over 300,000 active sportsmen, showed 69.3%, or 207,900, included salt water angling in their fishing sport. Naturally, the largest percentages were found in the coast states, yet a comparatively high number of "inland" fishermen annually find time to go to the Atlantic, Pacific or Gulf for some angling.

The Atlantic Seaboard is most popular with a total of 39.74%, followed by the Gulf (including Florida) with 22.35%, the Pacific Coast with 21.12% and New England with 16.76%.

Maryland was top state in the Atlantic Seaboard group with 8.07%; North Carolina was runnerup with 7.45% and New Jersey third with 6.21%.

On the Gulf, Florida ranked No. 1 with 12.42% and Texas was second with 8.89%. California drew 9.94% of the Pacific Coast salt water fishermen, with Oregon getting 6.21% and Washington 4.97%.

JUDGE MURPHY DIES

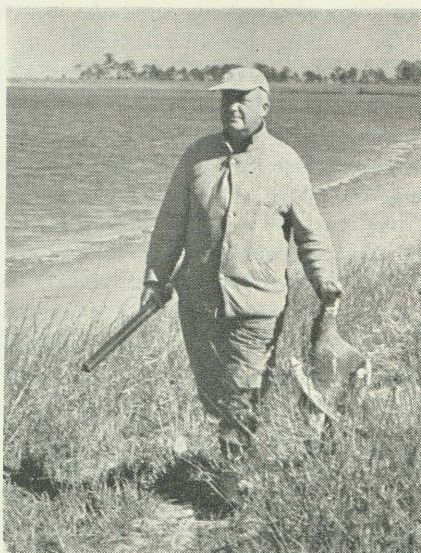
Manatee — County Judge Samuel J. Murphy, veteran jurist and well known sportsman, died here Dec. 24. He was 61 years old.

Judge Murphy, who held various state and county offices during the last 26 years, was famed throughout Florida as being judge in a major county despite the fact that he was no lawyer. Almost invariably, his decisions were upheld by higher courts.

A DOG'S LIFE

The U. S. Forest Service's system of impounding dogs found in the Ocala Forest Refuge area during the annual deer hunt and holding them for a \$2 fee proved to be a bad deal for the officials this year—but a picnic for the dogs. Eleven erring hounds that brought in impounding fees amounting to \$22, managed to eat a mountain of food that cost the management \$25.43.

"What's more, that figure doesn't account for two or three dozen sandwiches we donated out of our lunchboxes," one forest ranger recalled sadly.



Ben C. Morgan, director of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, with a blue goose which he bagged less than two minutes after the season opened. Its the only one reported killed in Florida this year.

287 Deer Are Killed During Ocala Hunt Says Forest Service

A preliminary survey of the annual Ocala Hunt discloses that 3,822 hunters killed 287 deer this year. The hunt opened Nov. 24 and closed Dec. 19, with Mondays and Tuesdays closed after the first five days. This year's report is slightly below the 1947 par when 3,957 hunters accounted for 382 deer.

However, it is believed that at least 100 deer, driven from the forest and killed outside the hunt area, made the total kill equal to that of last season.

Meanwhile, hunt officials have announced they will invite several sportsmen and an outdoor writer to meet with them in January to "discuss the weaknesses of the 1948 hunt."

Thurmond's report showed that hundreds of hunters succeeded in killing other game while they were trying to get a deer. There was a total kill of 1,062 cat squirrel; 43 fox squirrel; 45 quail; 57 duck and coot; 18 snakes; and 2 bear. A number of hunters who couldn't resist using a rod and reel even though they were on a hunting trip, accounted for 25 fish. This incomplete kill record represents but a portion of the game actually killed, Thurmond revealed, since only 1,937 of the 3,822 hunters have turned in their records. He warned all hunters that failure to report their 1948 permit kill is a direct violation of hunt rules and will make them ineligible to participate again next year.

Eighty per cent of the total deer kill, Thurmond reported, was made in the north end of the forest. He also reported an excessive number of deer were caught by dogs or were run into lakes and swamps and drowned. At least 20 were known to have been caught by dogs, he said.

Seventy-five deer were known to have been lost because of illegal shooting, being crippled by gunfire or caught by dogs as compared with 34 last season.

REPEAT PERFORMANCE

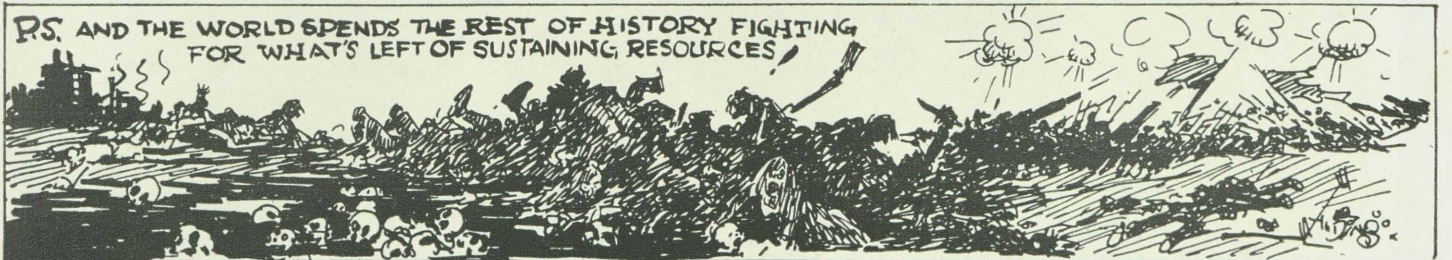
We first ran Ding Darling's "Time to Take Inventory" in the September issue of **FLORIDA WILDLIFE**. We thought at the time it was a good cartoon with a strong message. However, we underestimated its power; since September we have received literally hundreds of requests for reprints and extra copies of the September magazine. Because of this terrific interest among sportsmen of the state we decided to run the cartoon again this month. It is one message that gains significance with repetition.—EDITOR.



MOTHER NATURE SPENT A MILLION YEARS PUTTING UP PRESERVES FOR US—NOW LOOK AT 'EM!

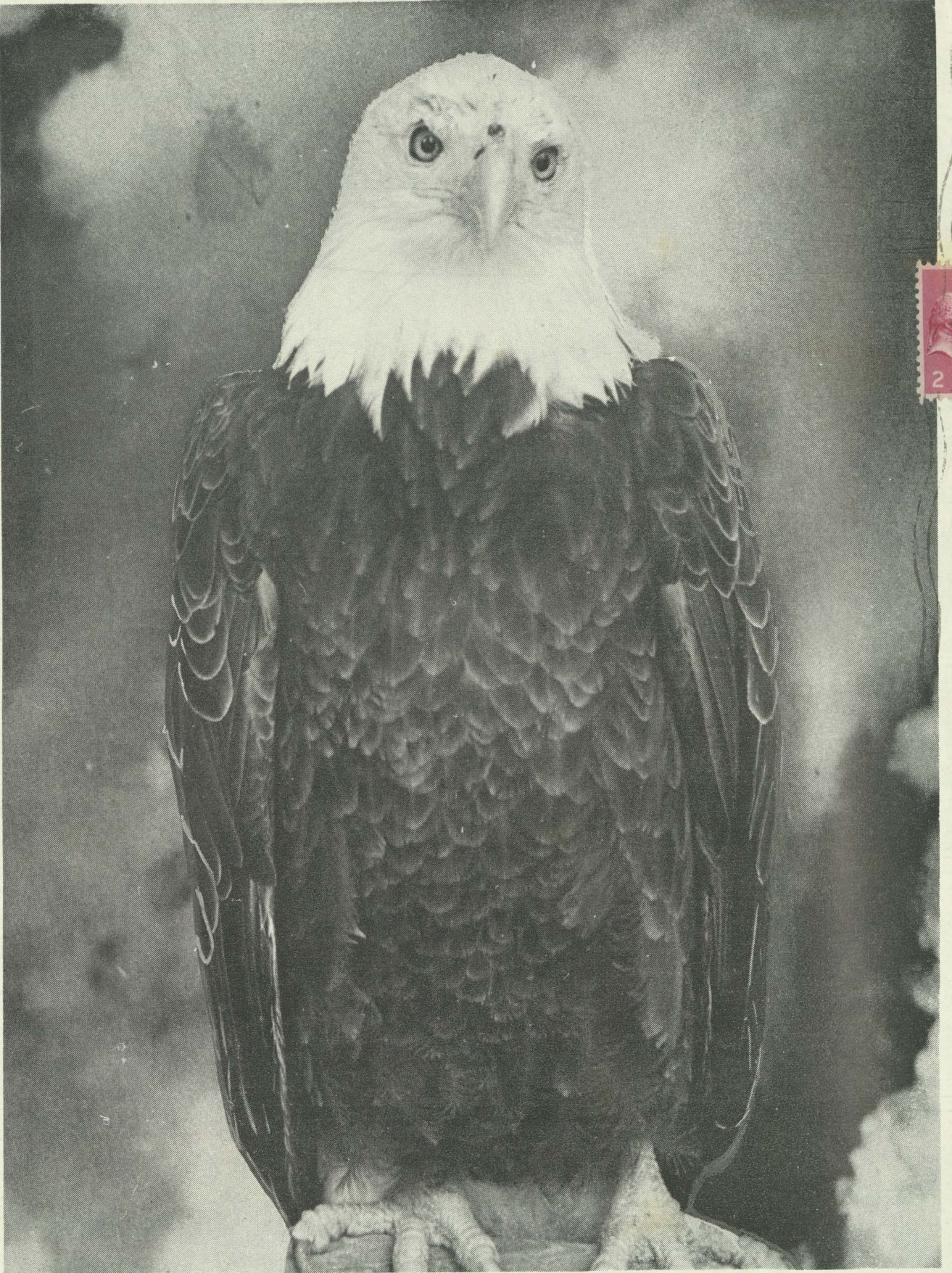


P.S. AND THE WORLD SPENDS THE REST OF HISTORY FIGHTING FOR WHAT'S LEFT OF SUSTAINING RESOURCES!



Time to Take Inventory

The Library
State Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida



... THE HUNTER

TALLAHASSEE, FL



TALLAHASSEE, FL (11)